

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 5.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending September 24, 2000**. Planting of winter crops has begun in many parts of the state. The harvesting of the corn and sorghum crops is nearing completion. Soil moisture was rated 37 percent very short, 39 percent short, 22 percent adequate, and 2 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	1999	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Harvested	98	96	97	90	--	--	--	--	--
Cotton	Open Bolls	98	96	98	94	16	21	35	25	3
	Harvested	44	23	32	22					
Rice	Mature	92	87	94	94	0	4	19	61	16
	Harvested	56	42	68	75					
Sorghum	Harvested	96	92	97	87	--	--	--	--	--
Soybeans	Turning Color	96	93	94	86	--	--	--	--	--
	Shedding Leaves	86	81	84	68					
	Harvested	51	43	46	36					
Wheat	Planted	4	2	2	5	--	--	--	--	--
Sweetpotatoes	Harvested	45	38	42	36	0	12	54	34	0
Hay (warm season)	Harvested	91	89	92	97	--	--	--	--	--
Cattle						6	14	42	33	5
Pasture						33	24	31	11	1

County Agent Comments

“Wheat and fall pastures are being planted but soil moisture is still short. Cotton and corn are the only crops that appear to be average or above average this year. Early beans are yielding average, but late planted beans are yielding very poorly.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss County

“Parts of the area received scattered showers, but they have come too late to help very much; in fact, cotton grades will likely be damaged somewhat by these showers. Farmers are looking for one thing: for the season to end.”

— Ernie Flint, Attala County

“Recent rains have helped the drought situation some, but more rain is needed. Some producers are planting winter pasture. Hay supplies are short, as most cattlemen have been feeding hay for several months. Beetle infestation in drought stricken pine trees is severe.”

— Richard Hay, Amite County

“Tropical Storm Helene did not bring any real relief to the Gulf Coast. Spotty showers and thunderstorms are helping somewhat. Whiteflies continue to infest nursery and homeowner ornamentals. Fungal diseases of turf are still showing up in area lawns. A huge pecan crop occurred this year, but many pecans are of low quality and are falling prematurely due to the lack of water.”

— Chance McDavid, Harrison County

“What little rain we have gotten in the last week has only hampered the crop harvest. Rain now will help us get ready for winter grazing and wheat planting. We will need the winter grazing since hay is already being fed!”

— Stephen Winters, Grenada County

Weather Summary from September 18, 2000 to September 24, 2000 for Mississippi													
District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Clarksdale	93	59	78	73	+5	0.20	-0.55	2	0.47	89	59	77	0.21
Cleveland	95	49	77			0.58		2	1.86				
Tunica	92	56	76	72	+4	0.01	-0.69	1	0.95	62	52	58	0.19
Extreme/Average	95	49	77	73	+4	0.26	-0.51	2	1.09	89	52	68	0.21
2. North-Central													
Holly Springs	93	45	73	70	+3	0.07	-0.77	1	0.92	86	66	78	0.23
Memphis	95	57	78	73	+5	0.42	-0.41	2	0.85				
Oxford	93	47	74	71	+3	0.34	-0.57	4	1.47				
Extreme/Average	95	45	75	72	+3	0.28	-0.57	2	1.20	86	66	78	0.23
3. Northeast													
Booneville	91	47	74	71	+3	0.05	-0.83	1	1.24				
Corinth	90	47	72	71	+1	E0.20	-0.71	1	1.21				
Iuka	88	54	73			0.61		2	2.21				
Pontotoc	92	51	74	72	+2	0.45	-0.52	1	1.56	82	74	78	0.20
Tupelo	93	52	77	73	+4	0.36	-0.51	2	1.08				
Verona	93	51	75			0.05		3	2.77	86	68	79	0.20
Extreme/Average	93	47	74	72	+2	0.29	-0.62	2	1.68	86	68	78	0.20
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni	96	55	79	74	+5	0.30	-0.40	2	1.22	94	78	86	
Greenwood	95	49	78	74	+4	0.46	-0.38	4	0.77				
Rolling Fork	98	50	77	74	+3	0.07	-0.63	2	0.68	99	75	89	0.19
Stoneville	95	52	77	74	+3	0.45	-0.34	2	2.20	88	69	80	0.22
Yazoo City	95	51	76	75	+1	0.08	-0.69	1	1.51				
Extreme/Average	98	49	78	74	+4	0.27	-0.50	2	1.28	99	69	85	0.20
5. Central													
Carthage	94	51	77	74	+3	0.01	-0.76	1	4.13				
Jackson	93	51	79	75	+4	0.61	-0.23	4	3.26				
Winona	91	47	72	71	+1	3.42	+2.58	2	5.79				
Extreme/Average	94	47	76	73	+3	1.35	+0.53	2	4.39				
6. East-Central													
Brooksville						E0.30	-0.53	2	1.44				
Columbus	95	52	77			0.45		3	1.42				
State University	95	53	77	73	+4	0.04	-0.87	1	0.96	87	74	81	0.18
Extreme/Average	95	52	77	73	+4	0.26	-0.65	2	1.27	87	74	81	0.18
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	92	54	78			0.31		2	2.19	91	65	83	
Natchez	94	49	79	76	+3	0.20	-0.64	3	0.57				
Oakley	95	50	77	74	+3	1.11	+0.44	4	3.16	94	70	85	
Vicksburg	95	49	77			1.60		3	1.97				
Extreme/Average	95	49	78	75	+3	0.81	-0.03	3	1.97	94	65	84	
8. South-Central													
Columbia	91	54	76	75	+1	0.05	-0.83	2	4.88				
McComb	91	55	78	75	+3	0.63	-0.37	4	4.16				
Extreme/Average	91	54	77	75	+2	0.34	-0.55	3	4.52				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont						0.23		1	2.71				
Hattiesburg	91	54	77	76	+1	0.09	-0.70	3	5.45				
Laurel	94	52	76	75	+1	0.12	-0.80	2	1.76				
Meridian	93	49	77	74	+3	0.42	-0.42	1	1.71				
Newton	95	45	75	73	+2	0.40	-0.44	2	1.34	86	65	77	0.15
Extreme/Average	95	45	76	74	+2	0.26	-0.63	2	2.57	86	65	77	0.15
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	96	53	77			0.00		0	2.01				
Biloxi AFB	91	61	81			0.15		2	6.50				
Gulfport	88	57	78	78	0	0.16	-1.15	2	6.39				
Pascagoula	91	55	78			E0.50		4	4.08				
Poplarville	93	56	76	76	0	0.35	-0.62	2	3.31	93	69	80	0.21
Extreme/Average	96	53	78	77	+1	0.23	-0.97	2	4.46	93	69	80	0.21
State	98	45	77	74	+3	0.48	-0.39	2	2.49	99	52	79	0.18

DFN = Departure from Normal.

'E' = Estimated Values.